

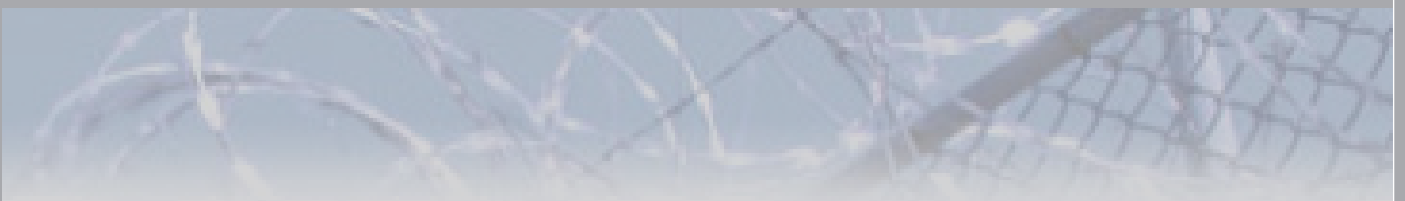
Utah State Prison

Death Row Inmates



UTAH DEPARTMENT
UDC
OF CORRECTIONS

Updated August 2021



Utah State Prison Death Row Inmates

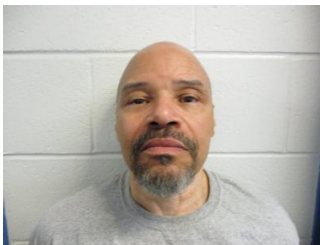
The following summary details each remaining Utah State Prison inmate who has been sentenced by the courts to die. Each of the remaining offenders on Utah's death row is at a different stage of his legal challenge, and each will ultimately spend a different amount of time on death row based on the legal proceedings and whether the inmate carries out the full extent of his appeals or decides to drop the litigation at any particular point in time. The Utah State Legislature in 2004 eliminated the firing squad as an available method of execution. The law was modified in 2015, allowing its use if lethal injection is unavailable or ruled unconstitutional.

* Those sentenced to death prior to the 2004 change have the option to die by firing squad.



Archuleta,
Michael Anthony
#100260

- **Date of Birth:** 03/26/1962
- **Offenses:** Distribution/Arrange to distribute controlled substance (F3), DUI (Class B), 4 counts Intoxication (Class C), Alcohol & Drug/other (Class B), Alcohol & Drug/other (Class C), Reckless driving (Class B), Possession/Purchase of dangerous weapon by restricted person (F2), 2 counts Driving/other (Class B), Driving on a revoked license (Class A), Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 12/21/1989 (4th District Court case #1140)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Lethal Injection (Assigned after he did not elect one)
- **Capital crime:** Archuleta was convicted of torturing, raping and murdering a Southern Utah University theater student. On Nov. 21, 1988, Archuleta met the victim at a convenience store. After a sexual encounter, he and an accomplice broke the man's arm, cut his throat, bound him with tire chains and a bungee cord and drove through Cedar City. They later tortured him using jumper cables and a tire iron, then left him on a hillside covered with branches and dirt.



Carter,
Douglas Stewart
#35443

- **Date of Birth:** 09/15/1955
- **Offenses:** Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 12/27/1985 (4th District Court case #85149797)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Lethal Injection (Assigned after he did not elect one)
- **Capital crime:** Carter was convicted of stabbing and shooting an elderly Provo woman in 1985 during a botched burglary. He stabbed the woman 10 times - eight in the back, one in the abdomen, and one in the neck. He then shot her in the back of the head at point-blank range through a pillow. The woman's hands were tied behind her back with a telephone cord. Carter was arrested less than two months later in Nashville, Tenn., and extradited back to Utah.
- Carter's first death sentence was overturned in 1989. The Utah Supreme Court ruled the jury was improperly instructed. He was resentenced on Jan. 27, 1992.



Honie,
Taberon Dave
#134877

- **Date of Birth:** 10/29/1975
- **Offenses:** Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 05/20/1999 (5th District Court case #981500662)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Not Specific
- **Capital crime:** Honie was convicted of killing and sexually assaulting his ex-girlfriend's mother in Cedar City. He broke in to their home through a sliding glass door. The woman attempted to protect herself and her grandchildren with a butcher knife. Honie turned the knife on her, cut her throat down to the spine, then sexually assaulted her body and slashed her repeatedly in the genital area. He beat her severely about the face and head. His ex-girlfriend's three children were present at the time and witnessed the brutal killing. Honie also proceeded to sexually abuse one of the children, causing injury and bleeding to her genitals.

Utah State Prison Death Row Inmates (cont.)

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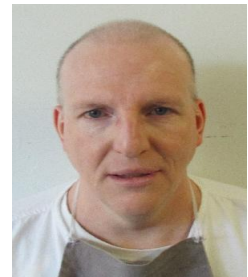
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- **Date of Birth:** 06/13/1968
- **Offenses:** Robbery (Compact offense), Murder (Compact offense), Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 08/08/96 (6th District Court case #941600213)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Firing Squad*
- **Capital crime:** Kell was convicted in Nevada of murder and robbery. He came to Utah through an interstate trade. On July 6, 1994, Kell was being escorted with three other inmates to the medical clinic at Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison, Utah. Another inmate passed Kell a handcuff key. Kell removed his cuffs and attacked Inmate Lonnie Blackmon using a "shank" knife. He pushed Blackmon to the showers where a fellow inmate held him down. Kell stabbed Blackmon in the back, chest and head. Kell got up, paused, noticed the body was twitching and resumed stabbing at the head. Blackmon died from at least 67 stab wounds.



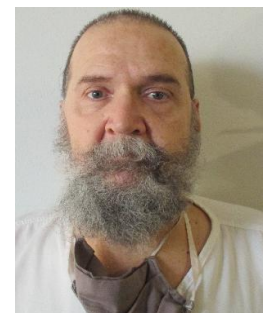
Kell,
Troy Michael
#72819

- **Date of Birth:** 03/26/1965
- **Offenses:** Aggravated burglary (F2), Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 05/24/1991 (3rd District Court case #1300)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Lethal Injection
- **Capital crime:** Taylor was convicted of killing two women, kidnapping two others and attempting to kill a man. Taylor and an accomplice broke into a vacant cabin in Weber Canyon and waited about three hours for the owners to get home. When three members of the family arrived, Taylor shot and killed one woman. Then, along with his accomplice, shot and killed a second. They bound and gagged a third person. About one hour later, two more people arrived. Taylor and the accomplice robbed the father, shot him in the face, doused him in gaso-line and lit the cabin. The man survived the gunshot and escaped with severe burns. The pair robbed two remaining women and took them hostage. Taylor pointed a gun at his accomplice and ordered him to kill the remaining victims, but police interceded and captured the men.



Taylor,
Von Lester
#52348

- **Date of Birth:** 04/21/1958
- **Offenses:** 2 Aggravated robbery (F1), Escape from official custody (F2), Attempted theft (Class A), Aggravated kidnapping (F1), Aggravated murder (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 03/23/1988 (3rd District Court case #CR86887)
- **Method selected at sentencing:** Firing Squad*
- **Capital crime:** Menzies was convicted of kidnapping a female gas station attendant, strangling her, slitting her throat and leaving her body in a canyon. Maureen Hunsaker was reported missing from the service station in Salt Lake County on Feb. 23, 1986. Two days later, her body was found in the Storm Mountain picnic area of Big Cottonwood Canyon. An autopsy revealed she had been handcuffed and held hostage before she was killed. Several students said she and Menzies had been together in the area. Menzies was booked into jail a short time later on an unrelated matter. Hunsaker's wallet and several other belongings were found in his possession. Several other items were found in Menzies' apartment.

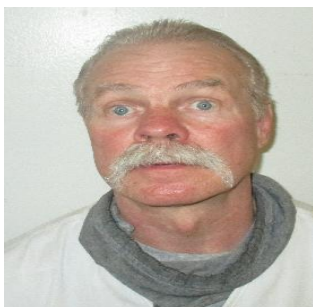


Menzies,
Ralph Leroy
#113858

Utah State Prison Death Row Inmates

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Lovell,
Douglas
#114679

• **Date of Birth:** 01/13/1958

• **Offenses:** Tampering with records (F3), Attempted theft (F3), Aggravated robbery (F1), Theft (F3), Aggravated kidnapping (F1), Aggravated sexual assault (F1), Aggravated murder (Capital)

• **Death sentencing date:** 08/05/1993 (2nd District Court case #921900407); Resentenced March 31, 2015

• **Method selected at sentencing:** Lethal Injection

• **Capital crime:** Lovell was convicted of murdering a woman to prevent her from testifying against him on charges that he had raped her on a previous occasion. In 1985, Lovell was charged in the abduction and rape of a woman. While out on bond pending trial, he tried to hire two different people to kill her. When that failed, he did it himself by abducting and strangling her.

Modern executions (post-1972)

Use of the death penalty was suspended in 1972 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the case of *Furman v. Georgia*. According to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), the Court ruled that the penalty was "cruel and unusual" if it was too severe for the crime, was arbitrary, offended society's sense of justice, or was not more effective than a less severe penalty. In addition to suspending the death penalty, DPIC says the move voided 40 death penalty statutes, thereby commuting the sentences of 629 death-row inmates around the nation. States began rewriting their death penalty statutes and on Jan. 17, 1977, the execution of Gary Gilmore by firing squad ended the moratorium. Information within this section is compiled from Utah State Prison archives.

June 18, 2010

Firing squad



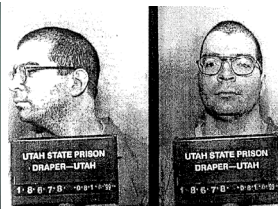
**Gardner,
Ronnie Lee**

- Gardner was pronounced dead at 12:17 a.m. the morning of June 18. He had his last meal of steak, lobster tail, apple pie, vanilla ice cream and Sprite two days prior to the execution and wished to spend his final 48 hours fasting, aside from an occasional soda. He spent his final day watching the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy as well as visiting with counsel and clergy. When asked if he had any last words, Gardner said, "I do not. No."

- Gardner was convicted of shooting and killing Defense Attorney Michael Burdell during an April 2, 1985 attempted courthouse escape. He also wounded Bailiff "Nick" Kirk. Gardner previously had been charged with killing Melvyn Otterstrom during a bar robbery. Otterstrom had been tending the bar as a second job.

Oct. 15, 1999

Lethal injection



**Parsons,
Joseph Mitchell**

- Parsons was pronounced dead at 12:18 a.m. on Oct. 15. He refused to choose a method of execution and was assigned lethal intravenous injection. He visited with his brother extensively prior to execution. He never apologized to his victim's family. His last words were directed to death-row inmate Douglas Lovell. He said, "Tell Woody the Rainbow Warrior rules."

- Parsons was convicted by a jury of stabbing and killing a man who had picked him up while he was hitchhiking in Barstow, Calif. After killing the man, Parsons pushed the body out of the car. After using the victim's credit cards, he was arrested by Utah Highway Patrol on Aug. 31, 1987, while resting in the victim's car at Red Creek rest area.

Jan. 26, 1996

Firing squad



**Taylor,
John Albert**

- Taylor was pronounced dead at 12:07 a.m. the morning of Jan. 26. He had terminated all avenues of appeal and was executed shortly thereafter. Taylor was allowed to smoke a partial cigarette outside on his way over to the building where he would be executed. He visited with his uncle and sister on his last day. He ate pizza and drank soda. His last words were, "Remember me, but let me go." He never admitted guilt.

- Taylor was convicted of repeatedly raping and then killing Sharla Nichole King one day before her 12th birthday, on June 23, 1989. The two were living in the same apartment complex. The girl was discovered five hours later in her mother's bed. A telephone cord had been tied around her throat.

July 30, 1992

Lethal injection



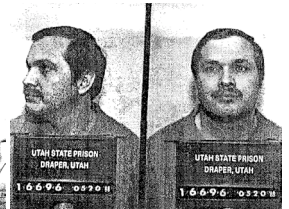
**Andrews,
William**

- Andrews was pronounced dead at 1:46 a.m. the morning of July 30. At the time of his execution, he had been on death row longer than any person in the United States. His last meal included a banana split.

- Andrews was convicted of murdering one man and two women - all of whom were tortured. Drain cleaner was poured down their throats, and their mouths were taped closed. One woman was raped. A man had a pen kicked deep into his ear. All victims were shot in the head. Two survived the torture, three died. The crime occurred over a period of about four to five hours. Two accomplices also were convicted - one received the death penalty as well. Andrews did not take responsibility.

June 10, 1988

Lethal injection



**Bishop,
Gary Arthur**

- Bishop was pronounced dead at 12:16 a.m. the morning of June 10. On the day prior to his execution, he visited for several hours with his parents. His last words were, "Give my apologies to the families of my victims." Bishop declined his last meal because he had started a fast after breakfast the previous day. After four years, he stopped the appeal process and was executed.

- Bishop was convicted of murdering five boys. All were sexually molested - four of them after being killed. Two of the boys were 4 years old, one was 6, one was 11 and one was 13. Bishop had been molesting boys and using them for child pornography for several years before killing his first victim in 1978. Bishop was arrested in 1983 and led police to the bodies.

Modern executions (post-1972) continued

Aug. 28, 1987**Lethal injection****Jan. 17, 1977****Firing squad**

**Selby,
Pierre Dale**

- Selby's used his final words to bequeath his accomplice, William Andrews, his money. When he was asked if he had anything else to say, he replied, "I'm just going to say my prayers."
- Selby was convicted of killing three people in an Ogden Hi-fi store during a robbery along with two accomplices. The victims were made to drink drain cleaner, a female was raped, and all the victims were shot in the head. Two survived, three died. The killers kicked a pencil deep into the ear of one of the survivors. Though Andrews and Selby were executed for their parts in the crime, the third accomplice had less involvement and paroled years later after years of good behavior. He later moved to Oklahoma. Following Andrews' execution, the third accomplice was found dead in a car from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

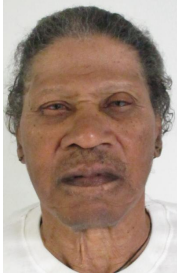


**Gilmore,
Gary**

- Gilmore's last words before his 8:07 a.m. execution were, "Let's do it." He was the first person executed since the 1972 U.S. Supreme Court ruled the capital punishment laws of several states were unconstitutional. Gilmore refused to file appeal. Gilmore's execution drew worldwide press and attention.
- Gilmore was convicted of execution-style murders of a motel clerk and a gas-station attendant in separate robberies.

Other death-row inmates (special cases)

Death sentence overturned



Tillman,
Elroy

- **Date of Birth:** 02/22/1934
- **Offenses:** Criminal homicide (Capital)
- **Death sentencing date:** 02/07/1983 (3rd District Court case #CR821081)
- **Capital crime:** Tillman was convicted of breaking in to the home of his ex-girlfriend's boyfriend, where he lay in wait for two or more hours to ensure the man was in a deep sleep. He then bludgeoned him with the handle of an axe and set him on fire - possibly while the man was still alive. Tillman's death sentence was eventually overturned in 2005, and in December of that year he was sentenced to 5 years to life. The Board of Pardons and Parole held a hearing on Feb. 24, 2009, and decided 8 months later that Tillman would serve natural life in prison. He moved out of the Uintas Maximum Security facility on March 20, 2008, and into general population.

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Utah Execution Law

Utah State Code 77-18-5.5. Judgment of death - Method is lethal injection - Exceptions for use of firing squad.

(1) (a) When a defendant is convicted of a capital felony and the judgment of death has been imposed, lethal intravenous injection is the method of execution.

(b) Subsection (1)(a) applies to any defendant sentenced to death on or after May 3, 2004, except under Subsections (2), (3) and (4).

(2) If a court holds that a defendant has a right to be executed by a firing squad, the method of execution for that defendant shall be a firing squad. This Subsection (2) applies to any defendant whose right to be executed by a firing squad is preserved by that judgment.

(3) (a) If a court holds that execution by lethal injection is unconstitutional on its face, the method of execution shall be a firing squad.

(b) If a court holds that execution by lethal injection is unconstitutional as applied, the method of execution for that defendant shall be a firing squad.

(4) The method of execution for the defendant is the firing squad if the sentencing court determines the state is unable to lawfully obtain the substance or substances necessary to conduct an execution by lethal intravenous injection 30 or more days prior to the date specified in the warrant issued upon a judgement of death under Section 77-19.6

Amended by Chapter 47, 2015 General Utah State Legislative Session

Overview of Statute

- Lethal injection is the only method of execution for those sentenced to death after May 3, 2004.

- If the court has held the defendant has a right to be executed by firing squad, that right is preserved. This would apply to defendants sentenced to death prior to May 3, 2004.

- If lethal injection is found unconstitutional on its face or as applied, or if the state is unable to lawfully obtain the substances necessary to conduct lethal injection, the method of execution would become the firing squad.



Report originally produced: June 2, 2011

Updated: March 16, 2021

Narratives of crimes compiled from court filings and UDC
Records Bureau.